



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

JEDDAH • SAUDI ARABIA



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U.S. Homeland Security Advisor meets with King Abdullah, delivers speech on bilateral security cooperation, attends KAUST ceremony

U.S. Homeland Security Advisor Frances Fragos Townsend is visiting Saudi Arabia to highlight the successful security and anti-terrorism cooperation between Washington and Riyadh.

Ms. Townsend is the Assistant to the President of the United States for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism. Ms. Townsend chairs the Homeland Security Council and reports to President Bush on United States Homeland Security policy and Combating Terrorism matters.

On Saturday, October 20, Ms. Townsend met privately with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah, to discuss positive joint U.S.-Saudi efforts to curb financing to organizations that support terrorism.

On Sunday, October 21, Ms. Townsend delivered a speech at Effat College in Jeddah. Addressing the all-female student body, Ms. Townsend focused on the joint US-Saudi partnership supporting counterterrorism efforts across the world. Ms. Townsend said, "Saudi Arabia is a key strategic ally of the United States and our partnership spans more than six decades....Because of my travel here...and our strong counterterrorism partnership – I have been blessed to witness an important chapter in the long history between our countries....Saudi Arabia is strongly fighting against terrorism and offering a bright and hopeful future. It is a country that fights fiercely against its enemies and is generous with those most vulnerable and in need. It has been an honor and I have learned a great deal about the importance of courage, leadership and vision – from seeing all that His Majesty King Abdullah is doing to protect, improve and strengthen the Kingdom."



At the personal invitation of King Abdullah, after her speech Ms. Townsend attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) at Thuwal, north of Jeddah.

Ms. Townsend's visit to the Kingdom comes on the heels of President Bush's decision on Friday to certify Saudi Arabia as an anti-terrorism ally in an official memorandum to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Friday. Under U.S. law, the President must sign such a certification in order to fund programs like the Middle East Partnership Initiative and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor—which promote democracy, good governance, women's issues, education and other reforms.

Full text of Ms. Townsend's speech at Effat College will be posted in English and Arabic to the U.S. Consulate General – Jeddah website at: <http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov>.

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